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Advancement of women

Traffic in women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In resolution 51/66 of 12 December 1996, the General Assembly, noting with concern the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being victimized by traffickers, called upon Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination to implement the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved while ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized. The Assembly invited States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, respectively. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report describes the steps that have been taken to implement the resolution, based on reports received from Member States,[2] authorities and bodies within the United Nations system[3] and intergovernmental organizations.

II. National measures

A. Legal measures

3. Many of the 30 Member States which responded indicated that national legal provisions which criminalize trafficking in persons and related activities[4] are in existence and one Member State provided information on the number of proceedings that had been initiated against traffickers.[5] Another Member State noted that its Penal Code states that governmental officials at all levels have a duty to secure the release of women and children who have been kidnapped or abducted for sale.[6] Another noted that trafficking contracts are illegal and that traffickers can be ordered to pay compensation to persons who are trafficked.[7] A number drew attention to legislation concerning procurement for the purposes of prostitution[8] and the exploitation of children and young persons for unlawful or immoral purposes,[9] including provisions which allow for the prosecution of nationals and residents for such offences committed abroad.[10] One Member State described measures which have been

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introduced to ensure that minors who are travelling abroad or who are subject to adoption orders are not victims of trafficking.[11] Other responses provided information on legislation regulating the employment of young persons and prohibiting their employment in certain sectors, including the entertainment business.[12] One Member State described measures that had been introduced to regulate the activities of hotels and preclude the employment of minors.[13] Others noted that immigration legislation provided penalties for activities which facilitate illegal work, and labour standards precluding the exploitation of workers.[14] Others indicated that while there were no specific criminal provisions related to trafficking, comprehensive legal provisions concerning illegal immigration did exist.[15]

4. Some responses indicated that new provisions had been introduced in order to make protection more effective. For example, one Member State has made trafficking for the purposes of exploitation a crime, and established penalties for anyone who, by falsely representing the possibility of residing as an alien in a country, or performing a lawful activity therein, induces another to enter a country illegally or to pay or commit herself to pay for passage to a country.[16] Penalties for the offence, which are intended to protect women from non-sexual exploitation, can be increased if the offender commits the offense professionally or as part of a gang or criminal organization.

5. Several responses drew attention to legal provisions which apply with respect to court procedures where children or juveniles are concerned[17] and others noted international conventions to which they were party.[18] One Member State reported on the introduction of measures to suspend the deportation of trafficked women who agree to serve as witnesses in proceedings against traffickers.[19] Another noted that its police force seeks actively to prosecute traffickers and also encourages preventive strategies, including media campaigns warning potential victims of trafficking of the recruitment practices of traffickers.

6. One Member State indicated that legislation had been recently introduced which allowed for the criminal prosecution of citizens or permanent residents who travel abroad in order to engage in the sexual exploitation of children.[20]

7. A number of responses drew attention to the fact that combating traffic in women is difficult given the reluctance of victims of traffic to cooperate with the police and because the international character of the activity complicates court proceedings.

B. Interministerial and interdepartmental cooperation

8. Some Governments have established interministerial working groups in order to elaborate collaborative and coherent national policies to address trafficking.[21] One country indicated that an inter-institutional committee to combat trafficking in women and children had been established by specific legislation to serve as a coordinating body and develop policies and programmes to prevent trafficking and to rehabilitate victims.[22] Others drew attention to interministerial working groups directed at the eradication of prostitution[23] or combating the sexual exploitation of children.[24] In this regard, one response drew attention to recommendations made to the Prime Minister and line ministries to address child sexual abuse.[25] Some countries also reported increased collaboration with the international travel industry, particularly regarding the detection of counterfeit and altered travel documents.[19] Another response described the cooperative participation of a broad range of local and district/government and educational bodies in efforts to protect the rights of women and children.[6] It also noted the enhanced security measures which had resulted in the decrease of cases of abduction and sale of women and children and programmes to re-educate prostitutes and their customers.

C. Research and statistics

9. A number of responses highlighted increased research activities aimed at identifying the actual situation in individual countries or regions. A number of these activities have involved the collaboration of non-governmental organizations.

10. Some Member States indicated that statistics on international trafficking were not available, although statistics on domestic trafficking were collected.[19]

D. Preventive measures

11. A number of responses emphasized that national policies stress prevention, particularly by the judicious use of visitors visas. One response drew attention to an inter-agency urgent action network which had been established as a 24-hour centre to monitor cases of child labour, child abuse and child trafficking. Another response drew attention to programmes aimed at suppressing prostitution and violence against women, and advised that it periodically

earmarked funds for use in securing the release of abducted women and children and in providing medical care for prostitutes.[6]

E. International cooperation

12. A number of Member States stressed the importance of enhanced international cooperation to address trafficking, including in the exchange of information among States on the legal and illegal movement of women who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, as well as the exchange of information on approaches to immigration and law enforcement. Others reported the existence of cooperative agreements between national courts.[26] Other Member States reported on measures to combat trafficking that had been developed in the context of bilateral development assistance. One country reported on the financial aid that it had provided to support initiatives to combat trafficking in women.[27] These initiatives included information, education and prevention campaigns in one country of origin, rehabilitation and training programmes in another, programmes aimed at the development of self-reliance for marginalized women, and research projects, including support for the work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.

13. Some Member States suggested that international arrangements could also be developed to facilitate the prosecution of persons involved in criminal activities relating to the trafficking in women. One response drew attention to the creation of a regional police office, Europol, which is currently developing measures to address traffic in persons, the exploitation of prostitution and the abuse of children.[25]

F. Other measures

14. Several responses noted the establishment of specific machinery to oversee the implementation of international conventions and others pointed to the fact that non-governmental organizations had set up programmes to rehabilitate prostitutes. Other responses noted the establishment of special working groups within the police force dedicated to combating traffic in women[28] and cross-border collaboration between police forces with the assistance of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).[28]

15. One Member State reported that specialized training and schooling programmes had been set up for civil servants whose duties concerned trafficking in women.[28] One noted that it had initiated a series of gender-sensitizing seminars for judges.[29] Another reported the establishment of counselling services to cater for victims of trafficking.[25] One Member State indicated that its civil liberties institution sought to prevent the exploitation of the prostitution of others by informing traffickers of human rights concepts and through advocacy initiatives, including through seminars and television and radio programmes.[30] Another reported that its Ministry for Social Development, Population, the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children takes action to sensitize its population to issues of violence against women.[31] Another Member State drew attention to the programmes that it has initiated, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, relating to traffic in children, child labour and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.[32] These organizations provide financial assistance to governmental and non-governmental entities and communities for programmes and services regarding trafficking.

III. Actions of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations

16. Over the past year, a number of United Nations bodies have addressed the issue of trafficking,[33] while others have considered the issue and made some recommendations aimed at the prevention of trafficking.[34] Some intergovernmental organizations, including the European Union, have also taken up the issue. The following summarizes the activities of these bodies, based on the responses received to the request by the Secretary-General and other information.

A. Commission on the Status of Women

17. At its forty-first session, the Commission on the Status of Women, by resolution 41/5 on traffic in women and girls,[35] called for the acceleration of the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] by Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination and regional and international organizations as appropriate by: (a) considering the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery; (b) taking appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external forces, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women,

including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators through both criminal and civil measures; (c) stepping up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking; (d) allocating resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training and the provision of legal assistance and confidential health care, as well as by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking; and (e) developing educational and training programmes and policies and considering enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, and all forms of sexual exploitation, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children.

18. In the same resolution, the Commission called upon all Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether their offense was committed in their own or in a foreign country. The Commission encouraged Governments, relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with one another to facilitate the development of anti-trafficking measures, to collect and share information and to promote a wider public awareness of the problem. It noted the need to raise awareness of the important role of the media, including new forms of information technology, in informing and educating people about the causes of effects of violence against women and in stimulating public debate on the topic, and called upon all Governments to take appropriate measures to prevent misuse and exploitation by traffickers of such economic activities as the development of tourism and the export of labour. The Commission welcomed the proposal contained in General Assembly resolution 51/120 of 12 December 1996 for the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, expressed its support for the work of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and decided to remain seized of the matter and to examine, at its forty-second session, the reports of the Special Rapporteurs and relevant organizations and bodies, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998.

B. Commission on Human Rights

19. At its fifty-third session, the Commission on Human Rights, in resolution 1997/19 on traffic in women and girls,[36] noting with concern the increasing number of women and girls from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being victimized by traffickers, and acknowledging that trafficking also victimizes young boys, invited Governments, with the support of the United Nations, to formulate manuals for the training of personnel who receive and/or hold in temporary custody victims of gender-based violence, including trafficking, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of victims. The Commission encouraged, in that regard, relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNICEF, ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to contribute to the preparation of guidelines for the use of Governments in the elaboration of their manuals, in cooperation with all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including those concerned with traumatic stress, taking into account existing research material or studies on the subject.

20. The Commission also encouraged the Centre for Human Rights to include the issue of traffic and women and girls in its programme of work under its advisory, training and information activities with a view to providing assistance to Governments, upon their request, in instituting preventive measures against trafficking through education and appropriate information campaigns.

1. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

21. The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in resolution 1996/12,[37] requested the Secretary-General to invite all States to report periodically to it on measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.[38] The Subcommission also encouraged Governments, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO)and

UNAIDS, the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), to establish specific projects for the protection of the victims of traffic in persons and of prostitution from the risk of infection with HIV and the spread of AIDS.

2. Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

22. The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission, at its twenty-second session held from 2 to 11 June 1997, considered the issue of trafficking in women and young girls for the purposes of prostitution within the context of suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others.[39] The Working Group affirmed the need to protect the rights of persons trafficked, to rehabilitate them and to return them to their countries only if they so wished. The Working Group noted the evidence produced by studies conducted in Asia by a non-governmental organization concerning the situation of survivors of trafficking, including the fact that many such survivors could not be repatriated because they were unable to establish their nationality. The Working Group also noted the European "Joint Action" to combat trade in human beings and sexual exploitation, which had made it possible to set up interdisciplinary coordination among the various countries aimed at dealing with those problems. The attention of the Working Group was drawn to the increase in sex tourism and to the very young children who are often exploited in this context. Members of the Working Group urged States to amend their laws to include the rule of extraterritoriality, making it possible to penalize offences committed abroad.

23. The Working Group also considered aspects of the issue of traffic in women and girls in the context of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.[40] In addition, the Working Group considered information received from the Governments of Australia and Belgium on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

24. The Working Group adopted recommendation 3 on the prevention of the traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others, in which it recommended that the Commission on Human Rights request the Secretary-General to invite all States to inform the Working Group every two years of measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action and the efficacy of such measures; recommended that Governments prohibit advertising or publicizing sex tourism and other commercial activities involving sexual exploitation; and also recommended that appropriate institutions for the prevention of prostitution be established at the national level in order to assist in the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of prostitution. It encouraged Governments, in cooperation with WHO and UNAIDS to establish specific projects for the protection of victims of traffic in persons and of prostitution from the risk of HIV infection and the spread of AIDS.

3. Special Rapporteur on violence against women

25. In her report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women focused on the issue of violence against women in the community, including trafficking and forced prostitution of women and girls.[41] The Special Rapporteur also undertook a fact-finding mission to Poland, in order to study in depth the increasing phenomenon of trafficking in the Eastern European region.[42]

26. The Special Rapporteur noted that one of the difficulties in effectively addressing the issue of trafficking in women and children was the lack of consensus with respect to the definition of trafficking. She also noted that another obstacle was the failure of the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of Others of 1949 to solicit wide support, largely as a result of its ill-defined and broad terminology, a weak enforcement mechanism and its uniquely abolitionist perspective. In her view, most Governments and Non-governmental organizations agreed that there was an urgent need to reformulate international standards so as to meet the exigencies of modern reality. There was also a need for non-governmental organizations to collaborate in order to find pragmatic, action-oriented solutions.

27. The Special Rapporteur expressed concern that trafficked women reported high levels of State participation and complicity; that trafficked women engaged in commercial sex work were particularly vulnerable to violence by State agents, including the police and immigration officials owing to the fact that the status of women migrants is frequently undocumented; and that countries of destination, with few exceptions, failed to provide legal mechanisms that encourage women to report their plight.

28. The Special Rapporteur identified the obstacles to reporting the violence and abuse experienced by women trafficked for prostitution as lack of legal literacy and of confidence in legal systems, fear of arrest or legal sanctions,

the need to maintain financial support for their families, outstanding debts, fear of reprisals by the trafficking network and of deportation, and language barriers. She recommended that those obstacles be addressed immediately by the countries concerned, with the support of the international community.

29. The Special Rapporteur emphasized that violations of the human rights of women associated with trafficking occur in both countries of origin and countries of destination and were complicated by the international cross-border character of trafficking. This made the protection of the rights of women victims of trafficking a difficult task, and the Special Rapporteur was of the view that the prevailing lack of adherence to the many legal international legal obligations and reporting procedures relating to trafficking in women was at least partly a result of the diversity of mechanisms ascribing State responsibility. In that regard, the Special Rapporteur suggested that oversight had become fragmented and ineffective owing to the absence of a central international authority on trafficking in women.

30. The Special Rapporteur made a number of recommendations with regard to trafficking in women and forced prostitution in her report to the Commission on Human Rights.[43] Further, more detailed recommendations, directed at the international and national levels, as well as the activities of non-governmental organizations, were made in her report on her mission to Poland.

4. Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

31. The report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[44] is focused on the commercial sexual exploitation of children throughout the world and contains information on the sale of and trafficking in children and the various measures that have been introduced to address these problems.

32. The Special Rapporteur carried out a fact-finding mission to the Czech Republic to study *inter alia*, the issue of sale and trafficking of children for the purposes of prostitution and pornography.[45] The Special Rapporteur made a number of recommendations for international and national action, and made specific proposals for follow-up to the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996.[46] Recommendations made as a result of her mission to the Czech Republic included that consultation and information services should be established in countries of origin as a preventative measure for children likely to fall victims to trafficking, and the need for the sensitization of law enforcement officers, in both countries of origin and countries of destination.

C. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

33. At its sixth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice again discussed the smuggling of illegal migrants.[47] Members of the Commission noted that the smuggling of illegal migrants not only caused mental and physical harm and financial hardship to the illegal migrants, but also affected the social stability and bilateral relations of the countries involved. Members noted that the smuggling of illegal migrants was, to some extent, linked with prostitution, and many representatives emphasized the need to adopt efficient measures to combat that phenomenon and to intensify the exchange of information and experiences related to it. It was pointed out that, in some countries, violence against illegal immigrants was becoming an increasingly serious problem, manifested in racist and xenophobic attitudes. Crimes were often committed against such persons by immigration authorities. It was recommended that due attention should be paid by States to the prevention and sanctioning of that form of abuse of power. Immigration laws should focus more on the network of criminal organizations involved in trafficking in migrants than on the punishment of migrants with no legal status. In that regard, repatriation procedures should prevent situations that might endanger the integrity, dignity and human rights of migrants. It was suggested that a database on the actual forms and dimensions of transborder smuggling of illegal immigrants and the various criminogenic factors involved should be established and that bilateral agreements and other arrangements to deal with trafficking in illegal migrants should be encouraged.

D. Related actions

34. A Ministerial Conference of the European Union to prepare the European Code to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Women took place at The Hague, from 24 to 26 April 1997. States Members of the European Union adopted The Hague Ministerial Declaration on European Guidelines to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Women for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation at the close of the Conference. The Declaration elaborates coordinated and harmonized responses to trafficking for member States of

the European Union which, although not legally binding, express the commitment of those States to the implementation of practical measures in the field of prevention, investigation and prosecution, as well as to the introduction of measures of support and assistance for victims. The first stage of implementation of the Declaration will include the convening of two seminars for member States, which will consider the introduction of national rapporteurs to report on the scale and nature of trafficking in women, as well as the effectiveness of policies and programmes to address that phenomenon and the development of information campaigns, in collaboration with those countries from which women are trafficked.

IV. Conclusion

35. Responses received to the request by the Secretary-General for information on trafficking in women and girls reveal evidence of significant trafficking activity. Responses also reveal that further data are required on trafficking before effective strategies can be designed and implemented. At this juncture, the strategies introduced have been predominantly legal measures and bilateral agreements to address the issue. In this context, it is to be noted, as a number of responses indicate, that strategies to confront trafficking in women and children are often affected by the international nature of the activity and the reluctance of the victims to complain or be involved in measures to address it.

Notes

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I.

[2] Austria, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Fiji, Germany, Greece, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic and Tajikistan.

[3] Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, United Nations University, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

[4] Austria (Penal Code, sect. 104, criminalizes slave trafficking and aiding and abetting slave trafficking, and sect. 217 criminalizes trafficking in human beings); Croatia (Basic Criminal Act, sects. 134 and 205, criminalizes founding of servitude and the trafficking of persons held in servitude, and soliciting for purposes of prostitution); Greece (Penal Code, art. 323, criminalizes traffic in slaves); Japan (Penal Code, art. 226, and Child Welfare Law, arts. 34.1 and 60.2, penalizes traffic in children); Jordan (Abolition of Slavery Act, 1969); Lithuania (Penal Code, arts. 182 and 239); Malta; Poland (Criminal Code); Kuwait (Penal Code, Arts. 178, 179, 180 and 185); Colombia; Russian Federation (Criminal Code, art. 152); and China (Revised Penal Code).

[5] Poland.

[6] China.

[7] Japan (Civil Code, arts. 90 and 709).

[8] China (Revised Penal Code); Japan (Anti Prostitution Law, arts. 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12); Jordan (Criminal Code, arts. 309, 310 and 312-317); Morocco (Penal Code, art. 498);Norway (Penal Code, sect.206); Burkina Faso (Penal Code, sects. 386, 388 and 389); Kuwait (Penal Code, arts. 200-203); Paraguay (Law No. 104, arts. 40, 50 and 70); Spain (Chapter 5, Title VIII of the Organic Law 10/1995); Luxembourg (Penal Code, art. 379).

[9] Fiji (Penal Code (Cap. 14) ss. 157, 162, 163 and 170); Lithuania (Penal Code, art. 241); Monaco (Penal Code, arts. 261, 262, 263 and 265); Morocco (Penal Code, arts. 471, 472 and 497); Syrian Arab Republic (Law No. 10 of 1961); Philippines (Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act; the legislation widens the definition of child trafficking to include an act by which a person induces, promotes or coerces children to engage in sexually explicit activities for any consideration or gain); Luxembourg (Penal Code, arts. 364 and 368-371).

[10] Norway.

[11] Philippines (Administrative Order 114, RA 7658 and 8043).

[12] Japan (Labour Standard Law, arts. 56.1, 61.1 and 62.2 and Law on Control and Improvement of Amusement and Entertainment Businesses, arts. 22 and 32), Philippines (RA 7658).

[13] Monaco.

[14] Japan (Labour Standard Law, arts. 5, 24, 32, 63 and 65; and Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, art. 73-2).

[15] Canada (Immigration Act).

[16] Austria (Penal Code, sect. 104a).

[17] Fiji (Juveniles Act (Cap. 56)).

[18] Fiji (Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), Greece (Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, European Convention on Human Rights and its eight protocols, and Recommendation (91) 1 of the Counsel of Europe relating to sexual exploitation, pornography and prostitution of children and

young persons).

[19] Canada.

[20] Canada (Criminal Code).

[21] The Austrian interministerial working group on trafficking in women is currently elaborating concrete measures to be adopted by criminal investigation officers and the security police in the field of health inspection and the protection of victims. The Government of Canada reports that it is developing closer coordination among Canadian agencies and departments responsible for dealing with trafficking. The Government of Cyprus has established a multisectoral committee chaired by the Law Commissioner to consider the issue and recommend appropriate solutions. In Germany, a working group on trafficking in women has been established under the direction of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

[22] Colombia (Decree 1974, issued 31 October 1996).

[23] Burkina Faso and Syrian Arab Republic where young persons are concerned.

[24] Luxembourg (Ad Hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child).

[25] Luxembourg.

[26] The Government of Germany reported the existence of such agreements between Germany and countries of Eastern Europe.

[27] Netherlands.

[28] Germany.

[29] Paraguay.

[30] The Government of the Philippines also reported on the use of various forms of media in this regard.

[31] Niger.

[32] Philippines.

[33] During 1997, INSTRAW has sought to collect and analyse material relating to violence against women, to be used as a basis for a manual to assist the United Nations and Governments to develop country and culturally specific manuals to be used in the training of personnel who serve as custodians for victims of gender-based violence, including trafficking.

[34] In its response, the Economic Commission for Africa indicated that there is little detailed information relating to trafficking in Africa, although there are anecdotal reports of such activity. The response recommended the introduction of legislation to criminalize traffickers and measures to empower women to avoid victimization by traffickers.

[35] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27-E/CN.6/1997/9), chap. I, sect. C.2.

[36] See E/1997/23-E/CN.4/1997/150, part one, chap. II.A. The full report of the Commission will be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23-E/CN.4/1997/150).

[37] See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

[38] See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28/Add.1.

[39] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13, paras. 37-40.

[40] See ibid., paras. 59-65.

[41] E/CN.4/1997/47.

[42] See E/CN.4/1997/47/Add.1.

[43] E/CN.4/1997/47, paras. 168-175.

[44] E/CN.4/1997/95.

[45] See E/CN.4/1997/95/Add.1.

[46] See E/CN.4/1995/95, chap. VI.

[47] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 10* (E/1997/30-E/CN.15/1997/21), paras. 74-76.